

Agency: ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)

Title: "COST-EFFECTIVE APPROACHES TO REDUCING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS THROUGH ENERGY EFFICIENCY, CLEAN ENERGY, AND CORPORATE GREENHOUSE GAS MANAGEMENT."

Action: Request for Proposals (RFP)

RFP No.: EPA-OAR-CPPD-08-04

Date: July 7, 2008

SUMMARY: Formal Agency responses to questions regarding the subject RFP

Question 1: How do I know if my project is eligible to apply under this solicitation?

Answer 1: Please refer to Section I.B for areas of interest. That being said, the areas of interest described in Section I.B. are not absolute requirements. However, applicants should note that proposals that address these areas may score higher during the evaluation process than proposals that do not address them.

Question 2: EPA is planning to award both grants and cooperative agreements- what's the difference? I assume the cooperative agreement would mean more day-to-day involvement with the agency. Does the applicant apply for the cooperative agreement specifically, or does EPA make that determination? If so, how does that work?

Answer 2: A cooperative agreement will entail substantial involvement from the EPA Project Officer. SAMPLE involvement may include but is not limited to the following activities:

Monthly telephone calls, emails or other meetings.

Planning discussions with the Project Officer before engaging in each of the major activities included in this project.

The EPA Project Officer will review all drafts of written materials which reference EPA program information going out to the public before printing/distribution.

The EPA Project Officer will review all completed project activities before approving subsequent project phases.

You may request a cooperative agreement at any level of funding. But the ultimate decision of which mode to use is at EPA's discretion. Furthermore, it is expected that cooperative agreements will be used for grants \$100,000 and greater. *Please note that CPPD does not consider recipient type as a notable factor for making the "grant" vs "cooperative agreement" distinction.

Question 3: Are construction projects eligible to receive funds under this announcement?

Answer 3: The EPA will not be awarding construction grants under this solicitation. However, there might be other parts of your project that meet the scope of work interests identified in the RFP. Please review Section 1.B. to determine if your project meets the one or more of the area's of interest for this solicitation.

Question 4: How do I know if my organization is eligible?

Answer 4: Proposals will be accepted from States, local governments, territories, Indian Tribes, and possessions of the United States, including the District of Columbia, international organizations, universities and colleges, hospitals, laboratories, and other public or private nonprofit organizations.

Non-profit organization, as defined by OMB Circular A-122, located at 2 CFR Part 230, means any corporation, trust, association, cooperative, or other organization which: (1) is operated primarily for scientific, educational, service, charitable, or similar purposes in the public interest; (2) is not organized primarily for profit; and (3) uses its net proceeds to maintain, improve, and/or expand its operations. For this purpose, the term "non-profit organization" excludes (i) colleges and universities; (ii) hospitals; (iii) state, local, and federally-recognized Indian tribal governments; and (iv) those non-profit organizations which are excluded from coverage of this part in accordance with § 230.20 (c).

Non-profit organizations described in Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code that engage in lobbying activities as defined in Section 3 of the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 are not eligible to receive Federal grants.

Question 5: Will EPA fund under this solicitation the purchase of energy efficient equipment and products?

Answer 5: This solicitation is authorized under Clean Air Act 103, which allows for funding the following activities: conducting and promoting the coordination and acceleration of research, investigations, experiments, demonstrations, surveys, and studies relating to the causes, effects (including health and welfare effects), extent, prevention, and control of air pollution. Therefore, under this solicitation allowable expenses must be related to research, investigations, demonstrations, surveys and/or studies and adhere to federal regulations 40 CFR Parts 30 or 31.

In addition, to be eligible for funding consideration, a project's focus must consist of activities within the statutory terms of EPA's financial assistance authorities; specifically, the statute listed above. Proposals that include project implementation will not be accepted. Generally, a project must address the causes, effects, extent, prevention, reduction, and elimination of air pollution. These activities should relate to the gathering or transferring of information or advancing the state of knowledge. Proposals should

emphasize this “learning” concept, as opposed to “fixing” an environmental problem via a well-established method.

Question 6: Is there someone at EPA willing to talk to me and tell me if my proposal is good?

Answer 6: The EPA makes maintaining the integrity of our competitive solicitations the highest priority. Consequently, we will not offer any preferential advice or consultation to prospective applicants. Question and Answers will be posted on this very website. However, we acknowledge that the Q & A's tend to be more general- and this is by design so that the information can be of benefit to the most possible range of applicants. Therefore, if you feel that a specific technology and/or technical component, and/or the very mission of your proposal has not been addressed, please resubmit your question- being very specific as to what answer you are seeking to cppd.grant-funding-inquiries@epa.gov.

Question 7: Can EPA provide examples of a previously funded proposal?

Answer 7: This is a new solicitation effort from the Climate Protection Partnership Division. Consequently, previously funded proposals do not exist for this solicitation.

Question 8: What organizations received grants from the most recent Climate Protection Partnerships competitive grant solicitation?

Answer 8: From the solicitation, "Market-Based Approaches to Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions Through Energy Efficiency in Homes and Buildings" RFP # EPA-OAR-CPPD-07-08, which closed August 30, 2007, the technical evaluation panel recommended grants to the following organizations:

- Natural Resources Defense Council
- Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
- Consortium for Energy Efficiency
- Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships
- Midwest Energy Alliance
- Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance
- New Buildings Institute, Inc.
- National Association of State Energy Officials
- City of Berkeley
- National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissions
- Association of State Energy Research & Technology Transfer Institutions
- Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management

While EPA has in the past made awards to the above entities, EPA-OAR-CPPD-08-04, represents an entirely new request for proposals.

Question 9: What if part of my project contains work that can be classified as Implementation?

Answer 9: To be eligible for funding consideration, a project's focus must consist of activities within the statutory terms of EPA's financial assistance authorities; specifically, Clean Air Act sec 103(b)3. These activities are limited to research, investigations, experiments, demonstrations, surveys, training, outreach and studies. Proposals that include project implementation will not be accepted. Generally, a project must address the causes, effects, extent, prevention, reduction, and elimination of air pollution.

These activities should relate to the gathering or transferring of information or advancing the state of knowledge. Proposals should emphasize this "learning" concept, as opposed to "fixing" an environmental problem via a well-established method.

Question 10: Will existing grants be funded from this solicitation?

Answer 10: No. The estimated funding for this solicitation is intended to fund the resulting new awards.

Question 11: Can existing EPA grantees be eligible to apply for this solicitation?

Answer 11: Yes. All eligible entities may apply. See Section III.A and Q&A #4 above for more info.

Question 12: Is there a page limit for our proposal?

Answer 12: Yes. The Narrative Proposal (section 1-3 below) **may not** exceed a maximum of 20 single-spaced typewritten pages, including the Summary Page. Pages in excess of 20 will not be considered. Supporting materials, such as resumes and letters of support, can be submitted as attachments and are not included in the 20-page limit. However, graphs, charts and tables that are part of the narrative would count towards the page limit.

Question 13: What type of budget information should a proposal include?

Answer 13: As stated in the RFP, proposals should include the SF-424A budget form which identifies the proposed costs for each budgetary category. In addition, your narrative should include a detailed budget, which describes and explains the proposed costs.

Question 14: I'm confused by the various references to "implementation". Can you please clarify.

Answer 14: To be eligible for funding consideration, a project's focus must consist of activities that are limited to research, investigations, experiments, demonstrations, surveys, training, outreach and studies. **Proposals that include project implementation**

will not be accepted. Generally, a project must address the causes, effects, extent, prevention, reduction, and elimination of air pollution. These activities should relate to the gathering or transferring of information or advancing the state of knowledge. Proposals should emphasize this “learning” concept, as opposed to “fixing” an environmental problem via a well-established method. Proposals relating to other topics which are sometimes included within the term “environment” such as recreation, conservation, restoration, protection of wildlife habitats, etc., must describe the relationship of these topics to the statutory required purpose of pollution prevention and/or control. However, EPA recognizes that order to perform your grant, you would need to “implement”- meaning to “carry out” your project activities.

Question 15: If our proposal will be cost-shared, can the non-EPA portion contain Implementation activities?

Answer 15: No. Proposals that include project implementation will not be accepted. Since cost-shared proposals incorporate all costs into the project, the implementation costs would still be unallowable costs- even though paid for with non-EPA funds.

Question 16: Are creating informative websites eligible project activities?

Answer 16: Again, please refer to Section I.B to determine whether your project appropriately addresses the areas of interest for this solicitation. An informative website would be an allowable expense if the grant appropriately meets the qualifications described in Section I.B.

Question 17: Should my proposal be written specific to one group within the Climate Protection Partnership Division?

Answer 17: This is a judgement call for applicants. Some proposals might benefit from specifically targeting a certain group, while other proposals might benefit from demonstrating cross-cutting activities.